

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. - 16. (canceled).

17. (new): Apparatus for producing packs, of the hinge-lid box type with cross-sectionally round upright pack edges (14, 15), in a packaging machine (11) having folding means, wherein planar elongated blanks (10) for the hinge-lid boxes are to be pre-shaped with the aid of rounding rollers (22), and then are to be fed to the packaging machine (11) for producing the hinge-lid boxes, comprising:

a) a continually rotating rounding turret,

b) means for feeding the blanks (10) in succession to the continually rotating rounding turret (18) which has plural securing means (19) for securing one blank (10) each,

c) a transfer conveyor (29) which feeds the blanks (10) to a charging station (28) located adjacent to the rounding turret (18), and a feed conveyor (33) which removes individual blanks (10) from the transfer conveyor (29) and conveys them to respective ones of said securing means (19) of the rotating rounding turret (18),

d) means for arranging the blanks (10), on the securing means (19), with a longitudinal extension thereof aligned in an axis-parallel direction transverse to the rotation path of the rounding turret (18),

e) arranged as shaping tools on both sides of each securing means (19), rounding rollers (22, 23) that are movable relative to the securing means (19),

f) each securing means (19) also comprising on either side thereof shaping members (20, 21) having lateral roundings (16) in a region of the round pack edges (14, 15) to be formed,

g) border areas of each blank (10) being shaped around the shaping members (20, 21) by the rounding rollers (22, 23), with the round edges (14, 15) abutting the lateral roundings (16) of the shaping members (20, 21) in the region of the round edges (14, 15), and

h) in a region of a removal station, a removal conveyor (35) which removes the blanks (10), preformed with respect to the pack edges, from their respective securing means (19).

18. (new) Apparatus according to Claim 17, comprising means for shaping the blanks (10), preformed with respect to the round edges (14, 15), back into their essentially planar starting form by corresponding relative positioning of the rounding rollers (22, 23) and/or of the shaping members (20, 21).

19. (new): Apparatus according to Claim 18, comprising means for moving the shaping members (20, 21) transversely in a plane parallel to the blank (10) and/or more or less tangentially to the rounding turret (18), so that the shaping members are moved apart from one another in order to deform the blank (10) back into an essentially planar starting position.

20. (new): Apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein the rounding rollers (22, 23) are mounted on supporting arms (26) which are connected to the rounding turret (18), and are movable in a radial direction, and transversely thereto, in order to execute rounding movements.

21. (new): Apparatus according to Claim 17, comprising: a stacking subassembly (36); and means for feeding the blanks (10), after being taken from the rounding turret (18) in the region of the removal station (34), to the stacking subassembly (36) in order to form blank stacks (37), the stacking subassembly (36) having an upright stacking tower (38) to which blanks are fed via an open, top side of the stacking tower.

22. (new): Apparatus according to Claim 21, wherein the stacking tower (38) comprises lateral, upright guide walls (39, 40) and at least one supporting wall (41, 42) as a rest for each blank stack (37) formed, said apparatus comprising means for drawing the supporting wall (41, 42) laterally out of the stacking tower (38) in order for the blank stack (37) to be conveyed away.

23. (new): Apparatus according to Claim 21, comprising a conveying shaft (43), wherein the stacking tower (38) has at least two bottom supporting walls (41, 42) which serve alternately as a bottom boundary or as a rest for a blank stack (37), said apparatus further comprising means for moving a respective bottom supporting wall (41, 42) downwards with the blank stack (37) in order for the blank stack (37) to be transferred to the conveying shaft (43).

24. (new): Apparatus according to Claim 23, comprising means for displacing the conveying shaft (43) in order for the blank stack (37) to be transported away in the transverse direction while carrying along the blank stack (37) in the process, the conveying shaft (43) comprising lateral shaft walls (44, 45) with bottom supporting legs (46) for the blank stack.

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25. (new): Apparatus according to Claim 23, comprising at least one pressure-exerting supporting component (50), wherein the blank stack (37) can be deformed as a whole, in particular with the effect of reverse deformation of the blanks (10), said at least one pressure-exerting supporting component (50) acting approximately centrally on a free top side of the blank stack, in a region of the conveying shaft (43) in order to transmit pressure to the blank stack (37), the latter being supported around a border thereof on an underside thereof.

26. (new): Apparatus according to Claim 23, comprising lifting means for transporting the blank stack (37) out of the conveying shaft (43), said lifting means (49) having supporting components (50, 51) which grip the blank stack (37) at the top and a bottom thereof.